

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 281**

**Introduced by Assembly Member De Leon  
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Conway)**

February 12, 2009

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An act to amend Section 48001 of the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to agriculture.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 281, as introduced, De Leon. Citrus fruit crop: California Citrus Advisory Committee.

Existing law provides that there is in the Department of Food and Agriculture the California Citrus Advisory Committee, comprised as specified. The committee is required to develop and make recommendations to the Secretary of Food and Agriculture on all matters regarding the implementation of an inspection program, including, among others, procedures for implementing an inspection program that is to include certain features.

This bill would specify that procedures for implementing an inspection program shall also include development of a communications program to inform producers and handlers of the requirements of the inspection program.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 48001 of the Food and Agricultural Code
- 2 is amended to read:

1 48001. (a) There is in the department the California Citrus  
2 Advisory Committee.

3 (b) The committee shall be comprised as follows:

4 (1) Eight producers.

5 (A) Five producer members shall be engaged in the production  
6 of navel or Valencia oranges; four of which shall be engaged in  
7 the production of navel or Valencia oranges in the San Joaquin  
8 Valley, and two of the four members shall be engaged in the  
9 production of navel or Valencia oranges in Tulare County.

10 (B) Two producer members shall be engaged in the production  
11 of lemons, one of which is engaged in the production of lemons  
12 in Ventura County.

13 (C) One of the members shall be engaged in the production of  
14 mandarin citrus.

15 (2) Four handlers, which have their principal place of business  
16 located in one of the following counties: Fresno, Kern, Madera,  
17 Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, Tulare, and  
18 Ventura.

19 (A) Two handler members shall be located in the San Joaquin  
20 Valley.

21 (B) One handler member shall be engaged in the handling of  
22 lemons in Ventura County.

23 (c) The committee shall be appointed by the secretary from  
24 nominations submitted to the secretary by members of the navel  
25 orange, Valencia orange, lemon, and mandarin citrus industries  
26 group.

27 (d) Committee members may be compensated for reasonable  
28 expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties, as  
29 determined by the committee and concurred in by the secretary.

30 (e) The committee shall meet at the request of the secretary, the  
31 committee chairperson, or upon the request of three committee  
32 members.

33 (f) The committee shall appoint a chairperson, one or more vice  
34 chairpersons, and any other officers it deems necessary.

35 (g) The committee shall develop and make recommendations  
36 to the secretary on all matters regarding the implementation of this  
37 chapter including:

38 (1) Procedures for implementing an inspection program that  
39 shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1 (A) Mandatory hold for inspection prior to shipping, following  
2 a citrus freeze.

3 (B) The minimum number of inspections to be conducted, and  
4 the duration of each inspection period.

5 (C) The minimum number of samples to be taken.

6 (D) Statistical analysis of compliance levels and determination  
7 of an acceptable level of compliance.

8 (E) Documentation of inspection data including the number of  
9 inspectors, number of inspections performed, and budget  
10 information relating to expenses of personnel, mileage, and  
11 overhead costs.

12 (F) Monitoring and postevaluation of program effectiveness by  
13 the secretary.

14 (G) Development of a single memorandum of understanding  
15 between the department and all county agricultural commissioners  
16 for the counties specified in subdivision (b).

17 *(H) Development of a communications program to inform*  
18 *producers and handlers of the requirements of the inspection*  
19 *program.*

20 (2) Determinations as to which counties have met the inspection  
21 requirements.

22 (3) Procedures for implementing a state crop estimating and  
23 acreage survey.

24 (h) The secretary shall accept the recommendations of the  
25 committee if he or she determines that the recommendations are  
26 practicable and in the interest of the industry and the public. The  
27 secretary shall provide the committee within 30 days of receipt of  
28 the recommendations with a written statement of reasons if he or  
29 she does not accept any of the recommendations.